RTD

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Years Ended: June 30, 2019
North Central Regional Transit District
Española, New Mexico

NCRTD Mission Statement:

"To provide safe, secure and effective public transportation within North Central New Mexico in order to enhance the quality of life of our citizens by providing mobility options and economic opportunities throughout the region."

NCRTD Vision Statement:

"To be the leading rural public transportation organization connecting communities and enhancing cultural, environmental, social and economic opportunities for the betterment of our region."

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

Chair
Daniel R. Barrone
- Mayor -
Town of Taos
Alternate
Miranda Quintana
Grants Administrator

Vice Chair
D. Tim Salazar
- Councilor -
City of Española
Alternate
Councilor
Justin Salazar-Torres

Secretary/Treasurer
Ed Moreno
- Commissioner -
Santa Fe County
Alternate
Anna Hansen
Commissioner

Councilor
Scott Flury
Village of Chama
Alternate
Matthew Gallegos
Chama Village Councilor

Councilor
Linda Holle
Town of Edgewood
Alternate
Juan Torres
Clerk Administrator

Councilor
Antonio Maggiore
Los Alamos County
Alternate
TBD

Lieutenant Governor
Arnold Garcia
Nambe Pueblo
Alternate
Marcus Lopez
Tribal Sheriff

Transportation Public Works Director
Ben Lujan
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo
Alternate
Christy Ladd
Planning Manager

TBD
Pueblo of Pojoaque
Alternate
Jeff Montoya
Assistant to Special Projects

Councilor
Charlie I. Gonzales
Village of Questa
Alternate
Brent Jaramillo
Councilor

Commissioner
Leo Jaramillo
Rio Arriba County
Alternate
Tomás Campos
County Manager

Natural Resources Director
Stephen Martinez
Pueblo de San Ildefonso
Alternate
Lillian Garcia
Transportation Planning Director

Tribal Sheriff
Matthew Sisneros
Santa Clara Pueblo
Alternate
Mary Lou Valerio
Transportation Planner

Councilor
Carol Romero-Wirth
City of Santa Fe
Alternate
Keith Wilson
Director of Administration & Grants Manager Transportation Division

Commissioner
Jim Fambro
Taos County
Alternate
Lupe Martinez
Interim Deputy County Manager

Mayor
Christof Brownell
Village of Taos Ski Valley
Alternate
Jalmar Bowden
Building Inspector

Former Governor
Charles Dorame
Pueblo of Tesuque
Alternate
Edward Escudero P.E.
Transportation Department Director

Ex-Officio Member: Terry Doyle | Rio Metro RTD – Alternate Elizabeth Carter

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: DANIEL R. BARRONE

I am proud to present the North Central Regional Transit District Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report. This year will be remembered for great accomplishments and the beginning of enormous growth in needed facilities that will allow the District to continually evolve and better serve our constituents.

I am honored to have served as a member on this Board for 12 years now and as its Chair for eight years. When I look at the achievements that have been made over that time, I have to point to and acknowledge the committed and hardworking tribal representatives, elected officials and their staffs and assure the residents of the District that they are being well represented by a group of individuals who go above and beyond in service to our residents.

The Board subcommittees – the Finance Subcommittee, Tribal Subcommittee and Sustainability Committee– continue to provide an invaluable service both to the Board and the public and in providing direction on critical matters.

With funding secured on the Española Maintenance Facility as well as the vast percentage of what will fund the Taos Operations and Maintenance Facility, we have made great leaps in the investment of infrastructure to not only meet our current needs, but accommodate future growth and expansion to better serve the public.

I appreciate the District management team and staff which continues to be an example of a transit agency that sets the bar for other agencies to model themselves after. I would especially like to acknowledge the transit operators who are out in the field on a daily basis. They frequently go above and beyond to deliver safe transit service with a smile to create as pleasant of an experience for our riders as possible.

When one considers the investment the District citizens make in regional public transportation through the regional transit gross receipts tax, I want to assure them that money is managed at its most fiscally-responsible and with ever-greater efficiency, and with a commitment by the District to be good stewards of the public's money and trust.

I look forward to continuing to serve the NCRTD and the people of the District to contribute to its growth and progress. I remain humbled as a member of the Board to guide the District as I fully believe we are providing a critical service to the great people of north central New Mexico.
Thank you,

Daniel R. Barrone
NCRTD Chair

FY2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTION REPORT

In Fiscal Year 2019, the NCRTD Board of Directors maintained an active agenda tackling a wide range of items to the benefit of the residents of the District and insuring that the NCRTD runs smooth and efficient. New policies and procedures were established, and existing ones were looked at and evaluated to make the District as financially prudent, accountable, well-run and resourceful as possible.

In FY 2019, the NCRTD Board welcomed the Village of Taos Ski Valley and Village of Questa as its newest member entities with the number of represented seats now at 17.

The Board also welcomed Rio Arriba County Commissioner Leo Jaramillo who assumed the seat vacated by Danny Garcia; Mayor Christof Brownell will fill the new Village of Taos Ski Valley seat; and Councilor Charlie Gonzales will represent the new seat on behalf of Village of Questa.

The Finance Subcommittee continued to meet on a monthly basis and the Tribal Subcommittee, as needed, to review key matters and make recommendations to the Board.

This year, a series of 42 Resolutions were adopted by the Board, among them:

- A resolution authorizing NCRTD staff to apply for Federal Funding through Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Section 5339 (b) Grant Program for Buses and Bus Facilities, for a maintenance facility, wash bay and fueling station;
- A resolution waiving fares for the 255 Mountain Trail and 305 Taos Express to participants of the 2019 Senior Games in Albuquerque;
- A resolution to support revenue stabilization and predictable reporting of tax matters from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico;
- A resolution allowing the Village of Taos Ski Valley to join as a member of the NCRTD;
- Resolution demonstrating NCRTD Board support of NCRTD-member tribal communities' concerns regarding Federal Tribal Technical Assistance Program, its current administration and recent changes in delivery;
- Adoption of an amended public records request policy;
- Resolution authorizing the submittal of a State of New Mexico Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) application for capital and operating costs relating to transit service to Carson National Forest and Taos Ski Valley;
- Adoption of amendments to the Sustainability Committee Charter, the Sustainability Plan, Sustainability Goals and Metrics, and ratification of appointments of the Sustainability Committee members;
- Approval to acquire 3.3 acres of land adjacent to the Jim West Regional Transit Center for future development;
- Resolution to adopt the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)
- Resolution allowing the Village of Questa to join as a member of the NCRTD;
- A resolution authorizing staff to apply for federal funding through FFY 2019 Section 5339 (B) Grant Program for Buses and Bus Facilities, for an Operations and Maintenance Facility in Taos;
- A resolution authorizing NCRTD staff to apply for federal funding through FFY 2019 Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant;
- A resolution authorizing NCRTD staff to collaborate with Santa Clara Pueblo in applying for FFY 2019 Tribal Transit Program Discretionary Funding to purchase a replacement vehicle.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE REGION FROM: ANTHONY J. MORTILLARO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's my honor to present to you the North Central Regional Transit District's (NCRTD) Popular Annual Financial Report to the Region. This report is reflective of our commitment to preserving the District's long-term financial health and is intended to summarize the financial activities of the District funds that are reported in more detail in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that can be found on our website. This report builds upon our former Annual Report to the Region. Following is a highlight of key initiatives completed as well as those planned for the future. I invite you to take a few moments to review this report and hope that you will find it informative and useful.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 the NCRTD continued to experience success as it reached its 15th year of service to the constituents within the District. Over the course of this time more than 8.1 million trips have been provided. In FY 2019 ridership reached another milestone in respect to an all-time high in ridership with 294,313 riders for the year. In order to ensure that transit services are provided regionally, the District funds specific transit services provided by other entities (Santa Fe Trails, Atomic City Transit, NM Rail Runner); as a result, 780,408 trips were cumulatively provided. These ridership numbers continue to reinforce the fact that public transportation services within North Central New Mexico are indispensable so that our constituents may attend to their medical, work, educational and general mobility needs, and support the freedom to get them there.

During the 2019 year the District continued its capital investment which involved the acquisition of new contemporary bus replacements, upgrading of bus shelters and stops to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and a new service to Angel Fire. In addition, our assertive efforts to secure funding for the new Espanola Maintenance Facility and Taos Operations and Maintenance Facility resulted in the acquisition of $12,384,534 from Federal and State funding resources.

For Fiscal Year 2020 the District is anticipating continued investment in the infrastructure that serves our customers. Specifically, we will be proceeding to the final design of the Espanola Maintenance Facility and its construction which will provide for the timely maintenance of the fleet. The continuation of bus stop improvements. Commencement of the land acquisition and final design for the Taos Operations and Maintenance Facility. Updating of the radio communications system and in-vehicle radios. Lastly, the District Board will be reviewing the input from its constituents related to existing services and for any desired future service expansions that has been provided during the 23 public meetings held as part of the Service Plan update. We thank you for your participation and involvement.

The District is unwavering in maintaining its transparency and commitment to excellence with leadership from the Board of Directors, collaboration with constituents, member entities and elected officials in our service area. Success in the future will come based on the efforts of all stakeholders. The future brings an air of elation for the Board, the organization and its team members.

As you read this report and note the accomplishments and services enumerated herein, the delivery of which are carried out daily by enthusiastic, highly professional and customer-focused team members, who are thoughtful, experienced, safety minded and committed to conveying best of class transit services. I am fortunate and grateful to be one of the many team members contributing to the success of the "Blue Bus".
With respect,

Anthony J. Mortillaro
Executive Director

NCRTD Functional Areas Diagram

Policy is established by the Board and is carried out by the Executive Director.

Executive Director oversees all functional areas and is supported in this oversight by Department Directors and Divisional Managers along with supervisory personnel who report to the Department Directors or Divisional Managers.

Due to the leanness of the organization many of the functional areas shown on the diagram are not staffed, but performed by one individual with multiple responsibilities.

Fleet maintenance is contracted out. Facility maintenance functions are performed by staff.

Transportation Administration/ Service/Operations/Maintenance
(Delilah Garcia,Transit & Facilities Operations Director)
Customer Service, Fixed Route, Customer Relations, Dispatch, Demand Response, Para Transit, Communter Routes, Fleet/Facilities Mgmt., Training, Safety, Emergency Planning, Scheduling, Service Implementation
Maintenance/Fleet & Facilities
(David Funck, Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Manager reporting to Transit & Facilities Operations Director)
Administrative & Board Support
[Exec Dir. , Exec. Asst. Stephen Dahlquist (Clerk of the Board) and contract minute taker]
Finance, Accounting, Procurement & Risk Management
(Hector Ordoñez, Finance Director/ Chief Procurement Officer)
Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations
(Exec. Dir.)
Anthony J. Mortillaro
Executive Director
(Leadership and management in support of the goals and objectives of the Board of Directors)
Legal
(Peter Dwyer, Legal Counsel (part-time) reporting to Executive Director and clerical support by Exec. Asst.)
Public Information/ Marketing/ Records Retention/Public Records Requests
(Jim Nagle, Public Information Officer)
Human Resources/Employee Relations/Customer Service/Safety/EEO Officer/Title VI Coordinator
(Joesph Palmeri, Human Resources Director with technical support by Human Resources Specialist)
Information Technologies/Telecom
(Steady Networks, contracted out with oversight by Ex. Dir .)
Regional Transit Planning, Service Development/Special Projects/Grant Development/Tribal/DBE Support/ITS/Service Development and Grant Acquisition
(Vacant, Transit Planning, Projects & Grants Manager reporting to Ex. Dir)

EIGHTH ANNUAL NCRTD LEGISLATIVE AGENDA SETS FEDERAL AND STATE PRIORITIES TO ADVOCATE FOR ON BEHALF OF DISTRICT MATTERS AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC

As the State of New Mexico 2020 legislative session begins, the NCRTD Board approved a "Legislative Agenda" that is to be used as a guide for the District's Intergovernmental efforts and to set the course for responding to legislative matters at state and federal levels that could have an impact on District operations.

The NCRTD Board and Staff, along with the Tribal Subcommittee will speak with a consistent voice and seek to advocate on behalf of protecting District interests and establish priority items for legislative review and enactment.

In identifying the FY 2020 legislative priorities, the District is guided by a variety of sources to determine stated priorities such as:

- Regional, State and National Organizations' stated priorities;
- Staff recommended and identified issues;
- Review of state and federal budgets
- Reference to the District's Long-Range Strategic Plan

This year there were 17 legislative priorities at the State level and seven at the Federal level. The priorities are then often shared with State Senators and Representatives in one-on-one meetings going into the annual New Mexico Legislative session and with U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives from the State of New Mexico during an annual spring visit to Washington D.C. to meet with them.

KEY STATE LEVEL PRIORITIES

- Garner support for the design and construction of the Taos Operations and Maintenance Facility
- Continuation of the funding for ADA transition plan improvements
- Replace and upgrade existing radios and radio infrastructure
- Replacement of transit vehicles
- Funding for the acquisition, design and construction of a Santa Fe satellite facility

KEY FEDERAL LEVEL PRIORITIES

- Monitor and support for surface transportation authorization funding towards Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act
- Support for legislation that identifies long-term funding for transportation
- Support for increased transportation appropriations
- Support for legislative policies that promote national transit safety and security

The involvement in strategic partnerships and coordinated efforts is intended to provide the District with a stronger presence in the legislative process on a state and federal level.

FY2019 Revenues: $12,370,528

FY2019 Expenses: $11,601,268 million

Transit Gross Receipt Taxes was 69% of 2019 Revenues

FISCAL YEAR 2019 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

This Annual Report contains summarized financial information taken in part from the North Central Regional Transit District's (NCRTD's) 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is published separately.

This Annual report is a summary created for general readership to inform those without financial and or accounting background and as such it does not contain all the information available in the District's CAFR. Users desiring additional or more comprehensive information such as financial information presented in accrual method, by classification, Management's Discussion Analysis and/or Audited Financial statements please refer to the CAFR.

The 2019 CAFR, which contains detailed information of what's outlined in this financial section and is available at the District's headquarters building in Española and/or the District's website at www.ncrtd.org in the About Us/Reports section. The Financial records and statements are fairly and accurately presented in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principals (GAAP)

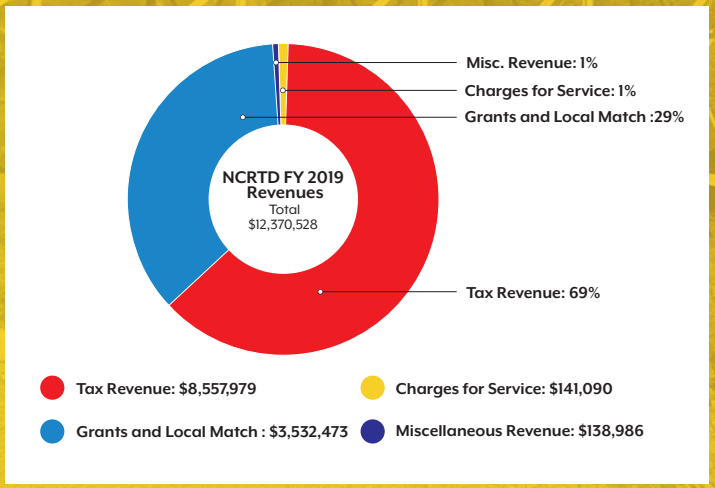
Budget:

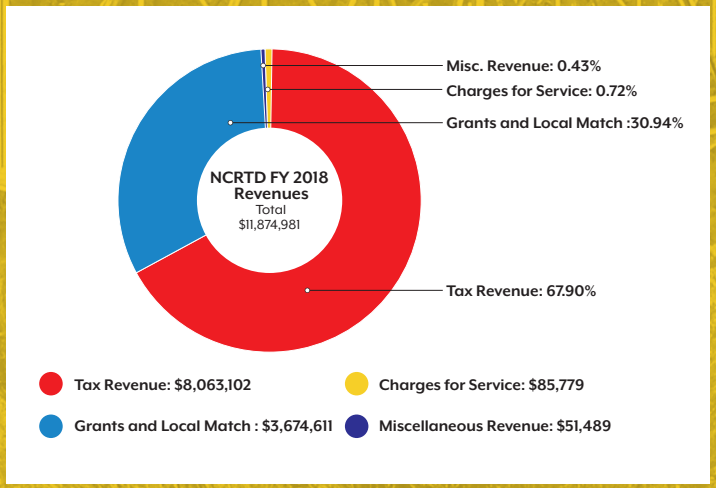
On June 30, 2017, the District adopted a balanced operating budget for Fiscal Year 2019 of $13,175,907 million. Revenues received during the 2019 Fiscal Year were $12,370,528 vs. $11,601,268* of expenses incurred. This means that the District received $769,260 more than it spent.

Revenues:

For Fiscal Year 2019 the District received revenues in the amount of $12,370,528. The revenues were received from the following sources: Federal and State grants (29%), Transit Gross Receipt Taxes (69%), and miscellaneous sources (2%). The increase in revenue during FY2019 is related to several reimbursable grant revenue received for grants that were closed and completed in FY2019 and a significant increase in investment revenue related to the diversification of the District's investment portfolio.

NCRTD REVENUES 2019 & 2018

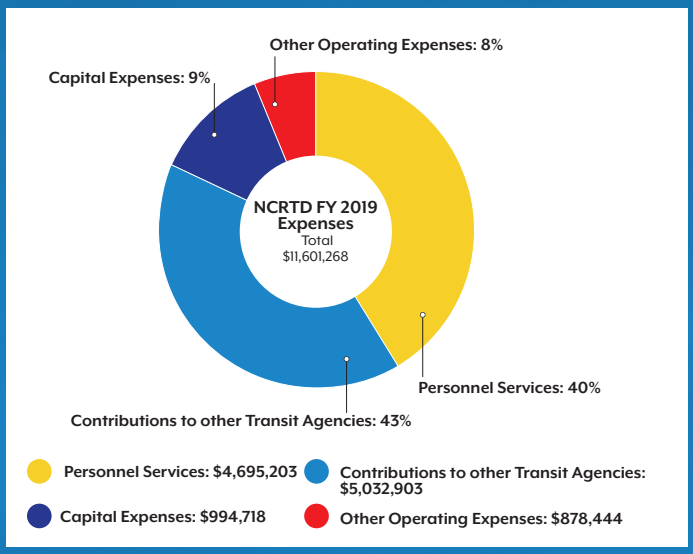


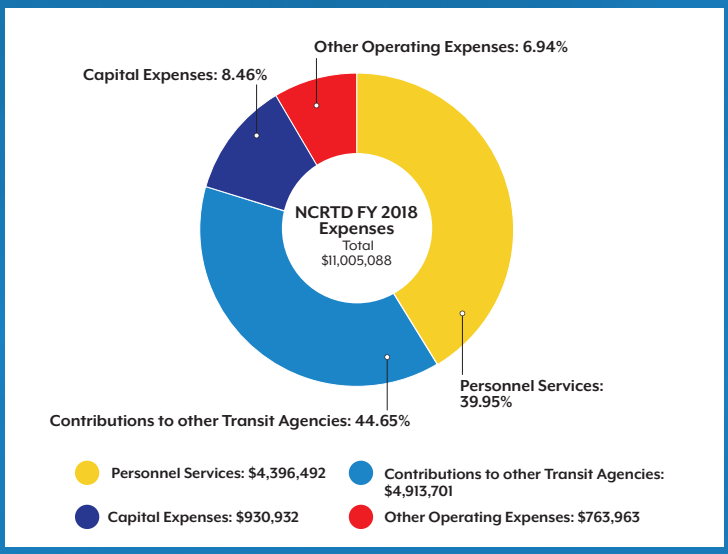


FY2019 GRT Contributions to other Transit Agencies (43%)

FY2019 GRT Personnel services salaries (40%)

NCRTD EXPENSES 2019 & 2018





Expenses:

Expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2019 totaled $11,601,268 consisting of the following: GRT Contributions to other Transit Agencies (43%), Personnel services salaries (40%), Capital outlay* (9%), and Other Operating Expenses (8%).***

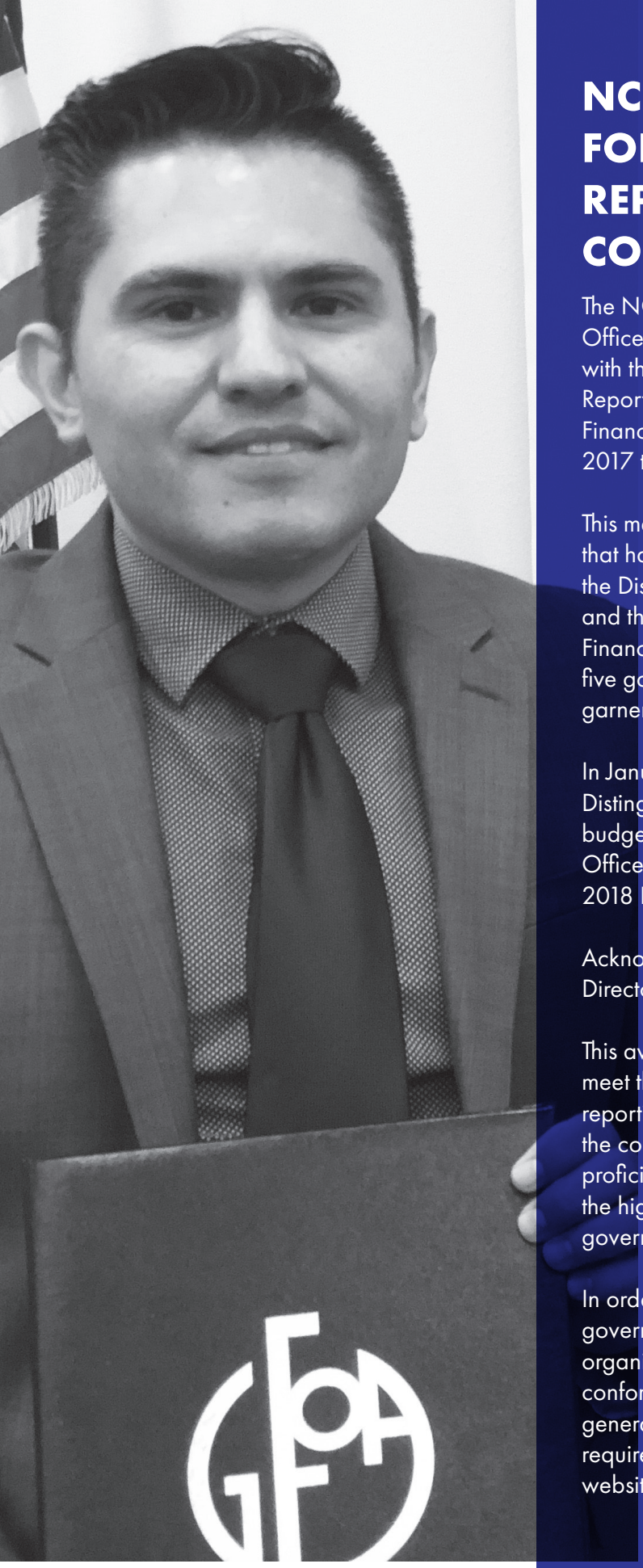
The largest expenditure category at related to GRT contributions made to other Transit agencies that provide services within the District's service area such as: the New Mexico Rail Runner, Santa Fe Trails and Atomic City Transit in Los Alamos County. The slight increase in expenses is net effect of increases in salaries, benefits, insurance costs and contributions to other transit agencies due to an increase in GRT.

Overall:

For the fiscal year 2019 ending June 30, 2019, AXIOM, CPAs and Business Advisors, the District's external auditors, expressed an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion that can be received (often referred to as a 'clean' audit).

The NCRTD Finance department oversees and handles all financial aspects of the District that is inclusive of Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll and maintaining the General Ledger. The Finance Department is also responsible for all the aspects of the District's financial obligations and reporting in relation to grants compliance and procurements.

A high standard of excellence, fiscal responsibility and values drives the District's Finance Department the goal of the department is to provide outstanding levels of support and timely and cost-effective service and products while conforming to the highest level of Ethical standards.



NCRTD RECEIVES GFOA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The NCRTD was recently honored by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The NCRTD 2018 fiscal year runs July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

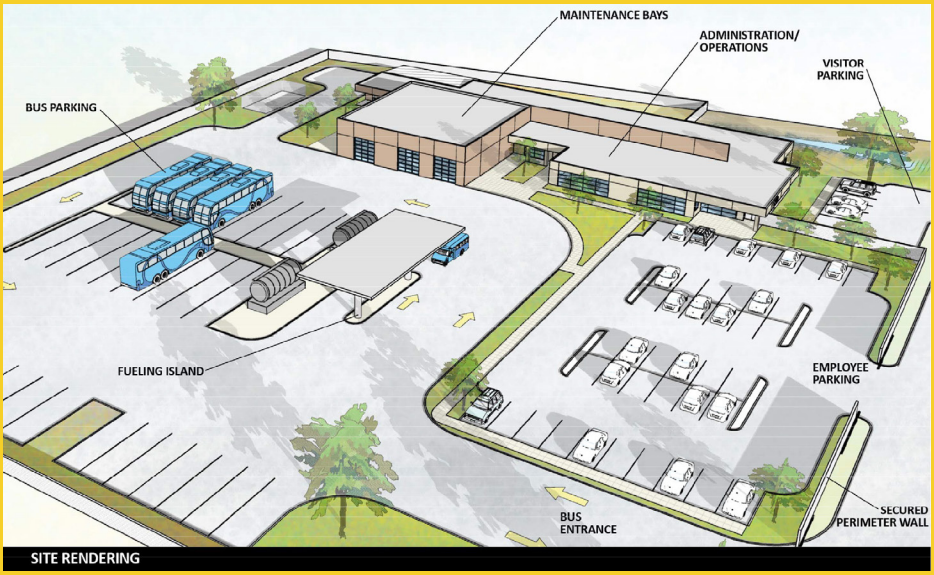
This marks the third of the GFOA's top national financial awards that have been bestowed upon the NCRTD this year and follows the Distinguished Budget Award for the FY 2019 Annual Budget and the award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR). This makes the District one of only five governmental entities in the State of New Mexico to have garnered each of the three GFOA awards this year.

In January of 2019, the department received its third consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2019 budget by the GFOA. In July, the District Public Information Office received, for the first time, the GFOA Award for its annual 2018 Popular Annual Financial Report.

Acknowledged in the Certificate of Achievement was Finance Director Hector Ordoñez and the NCRTD Finance Department.

This award significantly reflects the commitment of the NCRTD to meet the highest principles of governmental accounting, financial reporting and standards of communication and accountability to the constituents of Northern New Mexico. The District was graded proficient in each category and the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such a CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements. The complete report can be found on the District website: www.ncrtd.org in the About Us/Reports section.



SITE RENDERING

NCRTD RECEIVES $5.25 MILLION IN FTA FUNDING FOR TAOS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), through the New Mexico Department of Transportation, has awarded NCRTD with $5.25 million towards the design and construction of a new Taos Operations and Maintenance Facility. The grant was awarded through the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Bus and Bus Facilities Projects program.

Due to the growth in Taos area services, the District has identified the need to replace and expand its aged Administrative and Fleet Maintenance Facility in Taos, NM. The current ¾ acre site is inadequate in size and design to accommodate required administration, operational and maintenance functions that are needed at the location. Additionally, the current building does not meet current building code requirements.

The new facility is anticipated to be on an approximately five acres and within an area near the existing facility. It will include an enlarged operations center, an enhanced maintenance garage, a vehicle wash bay, a fueling station and a larger bus yard. The current facility does not have a vehicle wash bay or fueling station and all other components of it are incapable of handling current and future operations safely and effectively. The new building will be designed to allow for the greatest room for capacity expansion as well as future transit-oriented development.

In November of 2018, Albuquerque-based Huitt-Zollars completed a Preliminary Design and Master Plan for the Taos facility on behalf of the District. The total projected cost for the completion of the project is $6.56 million not inclusive of land acquisition. Additional funding is being sought through the state legislative process.

NCRTD ADA TRANSITION PLAN EXPANDS TO TAOS COUNTY: District celebrates opening of RTD Park & Ride Taos Facility

Work on Phase V and VI of the NCRTD Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan continued in earnest throughout FY 2019 and into FY 2020 and has centered its focus on the Taos area.

Most significant in this current phase is the construction of NCRTD's first park and ride facility now completed at the southeast corner of US Highway 64 and NM 150 in Taos County. The RTD Park & Ride Taos is a fully-developed and improved, ADA compliant parking facility to accommodate 83 cars on the RTD Blue Bus TSV Green, evening Night Rider and Questa routes. It will also accommodate future routes needing to connect at this location.

The Park & Ride has included the buildout and paving of the pre-existing dirt lot and the addition of an ADA compliant bus shelter, concrete pads, lighting, and will provide a more efficient and safer access for buses moving in and out of the stop. The development is the result of a long-term usage agreement with New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) on the property.

Construction was also done on the southbound stop opposite Cid's Market on Paseo del Pueblo Norte which included a bus pullout with ADA accessible concrete pad and shelter. Additional improvements for a new shelter and pad are earmarked for the Taos Public Library, the Guadalupe Church parking lot, the northbound stop outside Cid's Market and the northbound stop located on Paseo del Pueblo Sur and Bertha St, all in the Town of Taos.

The NCRTD applied for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program through the Northern Pueblos Regional Planning Organization and the New Mexico Department of Transportation for federal fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

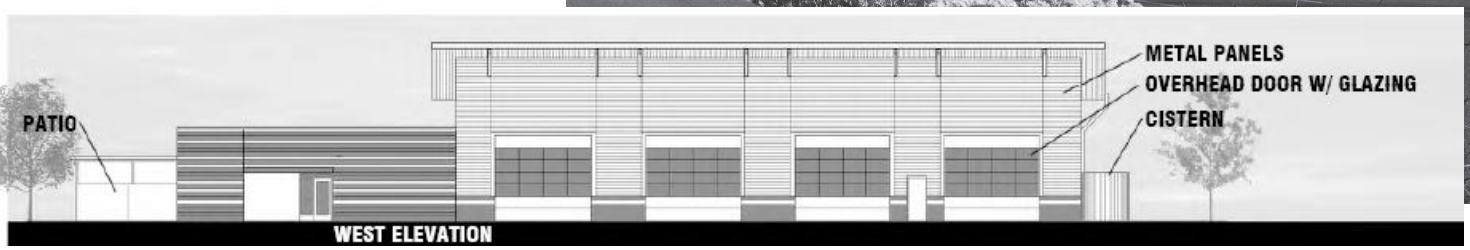
The District's efforts in implementing its ADA plan received a huge boost with a $1.02 million award from the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), through NMDOT, to modify RTD bus stops and facilities to assure they meet all federal accessibility requirements. This allows for the completion of the fifth (design) and sixth (construction) phase of the project by the end of FY 2020.

Phase V of the ADA Transition Plan, the design portion, identified a series bus stops in the Taos-area. Work then began on Phase VI, with the construction of bus stop infrastructure such as concrete pad work; sidewalk transition work and bus stop area backfill; installation of bus stop facilities; traffic and safety controls; bus shelters; and associated site improvements.

During the initial Phase I, an ADA Transition Plan was created and identified ADA noncompliant bus stops and shelters throughout the District and provided ADA compliant bus stop location templates that were used to guide modifications to bring the bus stops into ADA compliance. During Phase II, III and IV of the project, the ADA Transition Plan findings began to be implemented to bring existing ADA noncompliant bus stops and shelters into compliance in the Española area and at the Jim West Regional Transit Center.

Albuquerque-based Wilson & Company, is the on-call engineering firm as well as the contractor that completed the original system-wide bus stop assessment. HO Construction completed the construction of the Taos-area ADA Transition Plan.

FUNDING SECURED FOR NEW NCRTD MAINTENANCE FACILITY AT ESPAÑOLA HEADQUARTERS: PROJECT KICKS-OFF

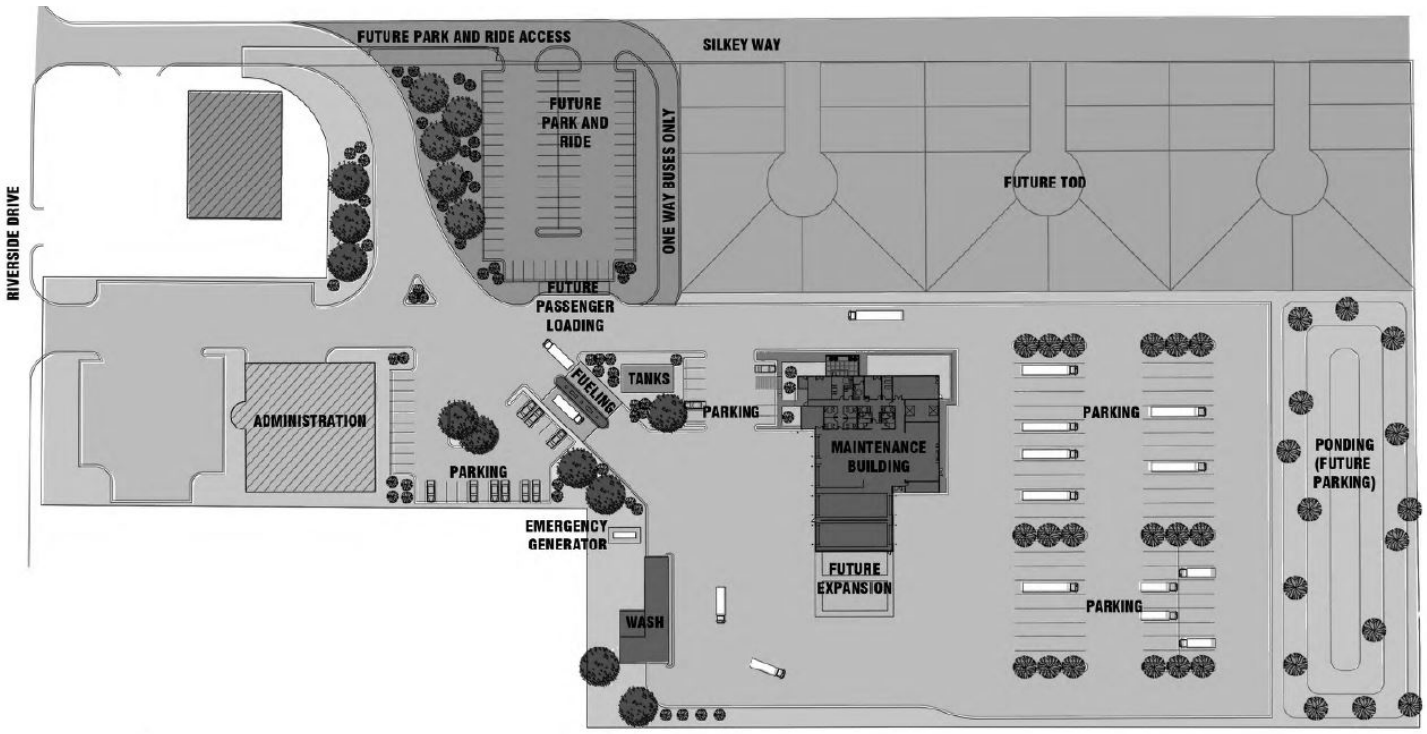


The North Central Regional Transit District has officially kicked-off the final design and construction phase of its new $7.7 million, 12,000 square foot facility that will be built on the District's land at its Española headquarters.

The District received $3.6 million as part of a US Department of Transportation/Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant "to modernize and improve America's bus infrastructure." An additional $1.29 million was received from the US Department of Transportation through its Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. An additional $1.09 million was received in Federal Transit Administration 5311 Rural Area Transportation Grant 5311. $1.14 million was allocated in New Mexico State Capital Outlay and $580,082 was budgeted in NCRTD funds.

The new facility will include a maintenance facility, fueling station and wash bay and be constructed directly behind the Jim West Regional Transit Center.

Construction is expected to begin in September 2020 and be completed in October 2021.



NEW ROUTES AND SERVICES

NCRTD NOW PROVIDING SERVICE FROM ANGEL FIRE TO TAOS:
REPRESENTS FIRST SERVICE IN COLFAX COUNTY

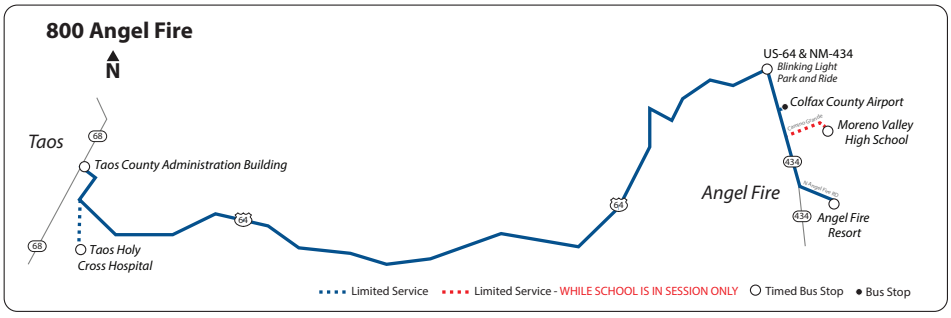
On August 12, the NCRTD began a contracted bus transit service between the Village of Angel Fire in Colfax County and the Town of Taos, located in Taos County.

The new service, which extends outside of the District's four-county area, is being financed by the Village of Angel Fire with financial support from Colfax County as well as federal grants. The 800 Angel Fire route will run as a pilot program through September 2020 during which time ridership and service levels will be assessed as well as additional sources of funding.

Angel Fire is a resort community that lies 41 miles east of Taos. The governing body of the resort community approached NCRTD with the interest in providing and funding a route to offer residents of Angel Fire access to services in Taos, students in Taos with access to Angel Fire schools and year-round outdoors enthusiasts with winter snow sports, mountain biking and hiking opportunities at Angel Fire Resort.

Fare-free service is provided on three round-trips seven days per week including and all holidays. There are four regular stops along the route including Angel Fire Resort, a park and ride location at the junction of US-64 and NM-434 in Angel Fire, Colfax County Airport and Taos County Administration Building in Taos. A fifth stop is provided weekdays at Moreno Valley High School. Holy Cross Hospital in Taos will be served once each day with return connections provided by the RTD 340 Chile Line Red route.

The Taos County Admin building is the location for an NCRTD transit center providing connections throughout the Town of Taos, Taos County, and to Española and Santa Fe.



With the addition of Angel Fire Resort, the NCRTD will be providing service to four top New Mexico ski areas including Taos Ski Valley, Ski Santa Fe and Red River Ski and Summer Area.

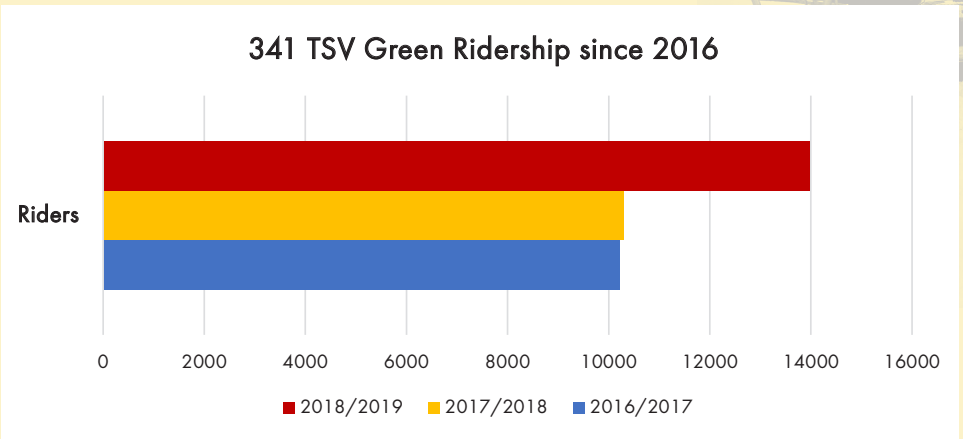
NCRTD COMPLETES ITS FIRST SUMMER SERVICE TO TAOS SKI VALLEY!

For the first time this summer, the NCRTD provided non-winter service on its popular TSV Green route between the Town of Taos and Taos Ski Valley.

The service was operated each Friday, Saturday and Sunday with three roundtrips along Paseo del Pueblo through the Town of Taos, with stops at the Plaza and in El Prado before turning onto NM 150 through the communities of Arroyo Seco, Valdez and to Taos Ski Valley.

The District worked with the Village of Taos Ski Valley which fully-funded the service. The Village recognized the value of providing summer service between the Town and Taos Ski Valley as a great way for people to have safe, easy access to all that goes on in the high mountain community in summertime. Throughout the summer there are exciting events each weekend, great hiking, places to dine and shop, and it provided residents and tourists with the ability to venture up and enjoy the cool mountain air. The service also provided Village residents and tourists wanting to stay in TSV in the summertime access to amenities down in the Town.

NCRTD SEASONAL NIGHT RIDER SERVICE CONTINUES IN TAOS



After a successful pilot program to provide Friday and Saturday evening service between the Town of Taos and the Taos Ski Valley (TSV), the NCRTD's RTD Blue Buses have resumed seasonal operations of RTD 380 Night Rider. The seasonal winter service coincides with the District's 341 TSV Green route between the Town and the Ski Valley which provided 14,000 trips last year.

Service is provided on two roundtrips beginning in the Town at 6:10 PM and runs through 10:10pm. The route services Paseo del Pueblo, the Plaza, El Prado, Arroyo Seco, Valdez and the Taos Ski Valley.

The RTD Night Rider service is a milestone for NCRTD as it represents the first time the District has offered nighttime bus transit service.

The Village of Taos Ski Valley had long wanted to provide a bus service to residents and visitors in the evenings, as well as provide the Town with access to services and amenities on the mountain. The two groups, in partnership with the NCRTD, worked together to achieve that goal.

NCRTD ESTABLISHES FARE-FREE DAYS ON RTD 255 MOUNTAIN TRAIL ROUTE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

In partnership with the Santa Fe National Forest, the North Central Regional Transit District will waive fares on its RTD 255 Mountain Trail route on three National Forest fee-free days.

At its September Board meeting, the NCRTD passed a resolution designating three National Forest fee-free days as fare-free days on the Mountain Trail route: National Public Lands Day, Veterans Day and National Get Outdoors Day. By providing fare-free service on these days the NCRTD demonstrates its commitment to cooperate with the Forest Service, enhance access to the forest, and promote health and awareness of public lands.

On those days, the Santa Fe National Forest waives fees at many recreation sites and campgrounds. In cooperation with other federal agencies and under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the forest service encourages "fee-free days" to create an opportunity for more Americans to connect with their public lands and participate in outdoor activities.

The Santa Fe National Forest has been a valuable partner in the design and service of the Mountain Trail route. The RTD Mountain Trail provides year-round service, seven days a week, including holidays, from downtown Santa Fe up Hyde Park Road, to trailheads through the Santa Fe National Forest concluding at Ski Santa Fe.

NCRTD UNDERGOING UPDATE OF ITS TRANSIT SERVICE PLAN

The NCRTD has begun an update of its Transit Service Plan. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued and the project was awarded to KFH Group, an experienced firm of transportation professionals dedicated to aiding local, state, and federal organizations to improve public transportation services.

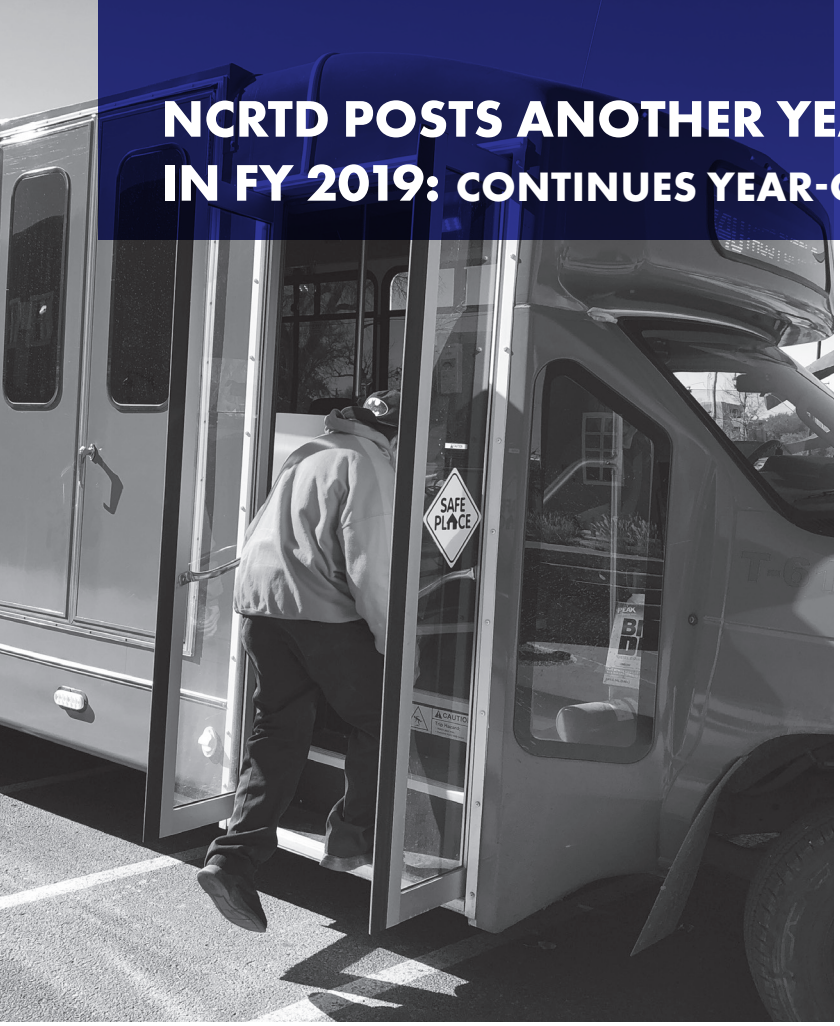
Public and Tribal Council meetings were held in 22 communities, including seven of the eight Northern Pueblos. Officials from KFH also conducted a series of one-on-one meetings with transit officials and stakeholders, as well as ride-alongs on the RTD routes. Feedback from these meetings and rides will be incorporated into a comprehensive plan. The plan addresses the general needs of the traveling public as well as the specific needs of sub-groups including businesses, university students, K-12 school-aged children, elderly, veterans and people with special needs.

The plans, proposals and recommendations in the service plan address not only mobility issues, but also related topics such as economic development, air quality, housing, job creation, environmental sustainability and energy consumption. The final document will be presented to the NCRTD Board in calendar 2020 for adoption following a presentation of the plan's findings and recommendations.

The plan will begin to be implemented shortly thereafter and include modifications to a number of routes to provide for additional stops, better planned connections, adding or eliminating service at times of day to better meet existing needs, elimination of duplication with other transit services and ensuring that all routes are operating at their most cost effective.

This represents an update to the 2014 five-year transit service plan. More than 80% of the recommendations from that plan were implemented by the District within two years.

NCRTD POSTS ANOTHER YEAR OF RECORD RIDERSHIP IN FY 2019: CONTINUES YEAR-OVER-YEAR TREND IN INCREASES



NCRTD-operated routes again celebrated record ridership in FY 2019 posting a 1.68% percent increase in rides and marking the largest number of passengers served by the District within a given year.

Passenger trips for all NCRTD-operated routes totaled 294,313 in FY 2019 over 289,441 in FY2018. The NCRTD provided service on 25 fixed routes throughout North Central New Mexico, one demand response route in the Española area, one dial-a-ride service and complementary paratransit and demand service in the Taos area.

Among the routes seeing the greatest increase in passenger trips were the 100 Riverside, 170 Jicarilla, 190 Chama, 255 Mountain Trail, 310 Red River, 341 TSV Green, 400 Los Alamos routes.

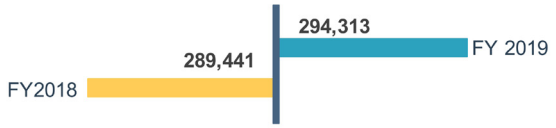
An analysis of all NCRTD-funded routes for FY 2019 shows one of the largest increases we've seen in years with a 7.86% increase after a .5% increase last year and declining ridership the three years prior to that. "NCRTD-funded routes" represents regional routes funded by the NCRTD and serviced by Santa Fe Trails bus system and Los Alamos Atomic City Transit. In Santa Fe, funding goes to support routes #2, #4 and #22, its Santa Fe Pick-Up, and shuttle services for special events such as Folk Art Market, Spanish Market, Indian Market, Zozobra and the Holiday Farolito Walk on Canyon Road. In Los Alamos, it funds Los Alamos Atomic City Transit buses between Los Alamos and White Rock.

Total ridership (NCRTD operated and funded) saw an increase of 4.44% this fiscal year.

The District continues to post increased ridership at a time when transit systems nationally have been seeing minor declines in ridership due to reduced fuel prices, though we are seeing some of those declines leveling off.

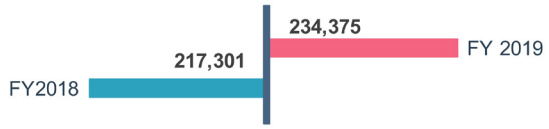
RIDERSHIP:

NCRTD Operated Routes (Record Year)



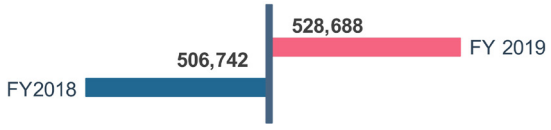
+1.68%

NCRTD Funded Routes*



+7.86%

Total Ridership



+4.33%

* NCRTD-funded routes includes regional routes funded by the NCRTD and serviced by Santa Fe Trails, and Los Alamos Atomic City Transit.

FY 2019 MARKED BY FLEET UPGRADES AND SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS

With a service area larger than nine US States, NCRTD vehicles cover a lot of territory. In fact, last year RTD transit operators logged more than 1.54 million miles on roads throughout the District. When you consider the circumference of the earth is 24,901 miles, that's a lot of territory to cover.

As a result, in fiscal year 2019, the NCRTD continued to expand its fleet to replace older vehicles, as well as ones that have reached their Federal Transit Administration (FTA) mileage maximum, with newer and more efficient models to provide top-of-the-line service to RTD Blue Bus passengers. The District remains committed to continually upgrade and enhance its fleet of 74 passenger vehicles.

There were nine vehicles purchased that were placed into service in fiscal year 2019. Those include one 25-passenger vehicle, one 18-passenger vehicle and six 14-passenger vehicles.

A contingency fleet of at least 20 percent is always maintained in accordance with FTA regulations and guidelines.

The NCRTD Sustainability Committee is working to help ensure that NCRTD property, facilities and fleet adhere to green practices. They also take a role in assessing alternative fuel vehicles, ensuring that the District adheres to sustainable practices within existing facilities, adheres to sustainable design and construction of new facilities, and encourages opportunities for the sustainable design of transit-oriented development on vacant and unused land on District property.

NCRTD: OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Every year NCRTD is excited to participate in community events around the northern New Mexican counties we serve. This year we were able to take part in events new and old. From the Española Light Parade, Taos and Española Trunk-or-Treat, Taos Touch-a-Truck, Edgewood's Run, Rally and Rock, Los Alamos' Halloween on Main Street to a ribbon cutting in Angel Fire for the new 800 Angel Fire route, the NCRTD made an appearance as the iconic Blue Bus.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

NCRTD's Above and Beyond award recognizes sincere care through acts of service for customers or fellow colleagues that go beyond the usual duties or job expectations, and truly embody NCRTD's professional excellence values of dedication and neighbourly care for colleagues. This year we honor Mark Lopez and Michael Broussard for their humility and service, they positively contribute to a caring and supportive work atmosphere. Mark and Michael true colleagues and we are very proud to have them in our team!

Mark Lopez was honored for an incident in which he came upon an accident in Alcalde while on his way to TSV. Two women were injured and he was able to administer assistance until EMTs arrived.

Michael Broussard was honored after a letter was received from one of the riders on the Edgewood bus. She noticed an elderly woman who was moving too slowly and had been missed by the driver of the connecting bus. Mr. Broussard took care of the woman immediately and went above and beyond to ensure the senior was not left stranded.

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